

At the end of the 19th century, a horse-drawn trolley rambled up a dirt road that is now Echo Park Avenue. The small farms and ranches that dotted the hills and canyons of Echo Park, and its sister neighborhoods of Elysian Heights and Angelino Heights, eventually gave way to Victorian mansions, Craftsman bungalows, Spanish Colonial style homes and brick storefronts. By the Great Depression of the 1930s, there were few empty lots to build upon. Echo Park may have changed dramatically over the past century, but it has managed to retain the historic character and strong sense of identity that sets it apart in a modern and sprawling metropolis.



*Baxter Stairway*

*Lotus Beds at Echo Park*

Echo Park has long nurtured a creative spirit. Many artists and cultural icons, including director John Huston and musician Jackson Browne lived and worked in Echo Park. Children's book author Leo Politi lived in Victorian era Angelino Heights and Carey McWilliams, who chronicled the struggles of the state's working class during the Depression, resided in a hilltop home on Alvarado. Chicano painter Carlos Almaraz captured vivid images of the view of Echo Park Lake from his apartment window. During the 1920s, bookseller and art dealer Jake Zeitlin was the center of cluster of Modernist artists, including Elysian Heights neighbor Paul Landacre, a famed wood engraver. Nearby, one of Los Angeles' most influential modernist architects, Harwell Hamilton Harris, lived in a tiny house of his own design that can be reached only on foot. Musicians, from opera singer Marilyn Horn to jazz great Art Pepper, were also at home

here.

["History and Landmarks" - Echo Park Historical Society](#)

[Echo Park - Los Angeles Times Neighborhood Profile](#)

[Elysian Heights - Los Angeles Times Neighborhood Profile](#)